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Hearings Set On Freedom Of the Press

A Senate subcommittee will open hearings Sept. 28 on freedom of the press.

Chairman Sam J. Ervin Jr., D-N.C., of the Senate Judiciary subcommittee on constitutional rights, said the hearings will continue through October.

Earlier, Ervin had announced that his panel would make a major study of the current state of press freedom in America.

The study was prompted in part by the government's attempt to stop newspapers from publishing the secret Pentagon papers, by attempts to compel journalists to testify at criminal investigations, and by an attempt to punish the CBS network for refusing to hand over to a House committee films taken for its controversial television documentary, "The Selling of the Pentagon."

Ervin said the subcommittee study is designed "to examine the constitutional issues and to explore the practical problems surrounding the application of 'free press' principles."

Aside from making a general review on press freedom, the subcommittee will study proposed legislation that would insure the secrecy of newsmen's sources for news.

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